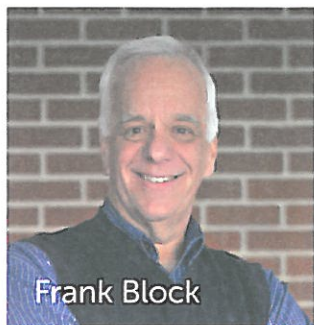


# FAMILY journal



Building Families. Changing Lives.

Summer 2015 • Volume 9, Issue 3



Frank Block

## How Adoption Protected Marcie Will you join our 35th Anniversary Celebration?

**M**arcie was a precious newborn placed at birth with Tim and Judy who had no kids until she arrived. They each spent a great deal of time with children in their work and deeply desired

to be parents. Because the biological father did not consent to adoption, theirs was an at-risk placement. Eventually, he claimed he wanted to parent

This sent Tim and Judy into a moment of panic. As time passed, however, the birth father took no legal steps to assert his paternity. Eventually, the courts terminated his parental rights. The adoption was finalized! Little Marcie was fully and legally bound to Tim and Judy!

And then, tragedy: the biological father was arrested on charges of robbery and murder. Imagine if little Marcie had been in his custody. She could have been with him when he allegedly committed these crimes. What would have happened to her then? Where would she be now? With the biological father in jail and perhaps heading for prison, would she be passed to family members? In state custody and beginning time in foster care?

That's part of the miracle and ministry of adoption! Sometimes children are plucked out of what could have been a disastrous situation and placed in safe adoptive homes where they are protected and nurtured.

Situations like Marcie's drive our passion to tell women about the adoption option, that they can choose – and meet – the adoptive parents for their child. That they can have ongoing contact and the assurance that their

child is in a safe, Christian home. Above all else, they can choose life for their baby!

We couldn't make our services known to birth parents without your help. We visit health departments, schools, physicians, hospitals, and pregnancy centers to reach women and men facing unplanned pregnancies. Your donations enable our Team to counsel women and men and contact other social workers about the powerful impact adoption can have.

As Love Basket celebrates its 35th anniversary and plans for the next 35 years, will you make a donation today to help us reach more children like Marcie? Will you help us lay the cornerstone for the next 35 years? If so, please respond by making a donation today.

Frank Block  
Executive Director  
Love Basket

PS Love Basket will mark its 35th anniversary with a celebration and reunion on October 24, 2015 at St. Louis's City Museum. (Despite its name, it's not a museum and it's not about the city. It's a giant playground—indoors and out—for adults and kids alike. One of my grandkids' favorite places!) I hope you'll join us. We'll have great food, lots for kids to do together, and even staff members from past years. See all the details on page 3. See you on October 24!



## Ways You Can Support Love Basket

### ○ PRAY

You can partner with us by praying that the Holy Spirit would lead women/couples in need of Christ's loving care during an unexpected pregnancy to walk through the doors of Love Basket. Pray for the families whose hearts have been led to adoption, that they would have comfort and peace in knowing God is orchestrating the building of their family.

### ○ LOVE BASKET ADOPTION ASSISTANCE FUND

Have you ever heard a family say, "I would love to adopt but just don't have the money to do so."? We don't want finances to limit families in answering the call to adopt, which is why we help families pursue low-cost loans, grant opportunities, and fundraising ideas. In addition, our Adoption Assistance Fund exists to offer financial assistance to those families who may still need a bit of support in raising the money for an adoption. Our fund is getting low and we would love for you to consider a donation that would help another family to fulfill their lifelong dream of adopting by using the enclosed envelope or giving online at [www.lovebasket.org/donate/](http://www.lovebasket.org/donate/).



## Check Out Our Website

Visit [www.lovebasket.org](http://www.lovebasket.org) to see the all new redesigned Love Basket website! Our new site features a blog, new stories from adoptive families and more.

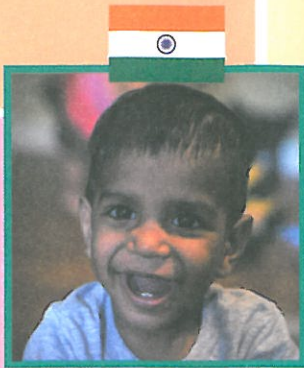
## follow us on facebook

For adoptive families:  
[Facebook.com/lovebasketadoptions](https://www.facebook.com/lovebasketadoptions)

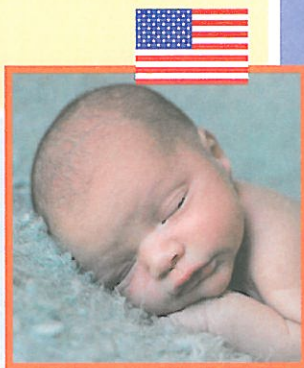
For birth parents:  
[Facebook.com/whyadoption](https://www.facebook.com/whyadoption)



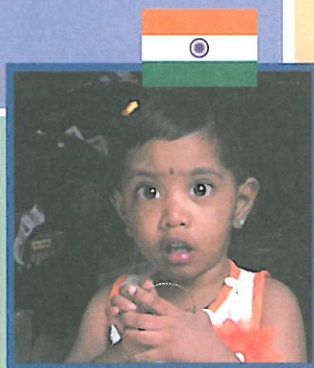
# WELCOME HOME



Isaac Aritra



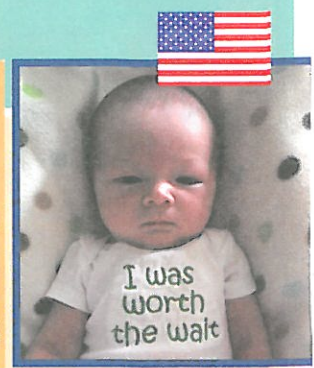
Henry Ashton



Aasha Ganesh



Khylee Marie



Grant Douglas

## DOMESTIC ADOPTION CORNER

### Search and Reunion Tips Part 2:

#### The Search is Over....Time for the Adoption Reunion

The Search and Reunion process has two obvious phases. Once an adoptee and birth family have searched for and found each other, it is tempting to rush head-long into the emotional and dramatic reunion. What most folks find works best for everyone is moving at a bit slower pace. After all, too much intensity too quickly can cause one or both parties to pull back and need time to process the new information and emotions that can be involved in a reunion. Perhaps, this slower pace will include starting with an exchange of emails and photographs before moving onto meeting in person. It can be very helpful to have an intermediary – perhaps an agency staff member – coordinate the early communications and ensure that both sides desire contact.

It is generally recommended that the adoptee be allowed to set the pace for the contact. After all, the adoptee is the one who had no say in the adoption and by virtue of being younger, has less life experience to draw on in processing this new relationship. The support of adoptive parents can be crucial for an adoptee seeking contact with their birth parents. While many adoptive parents express concern that the adoptee is looking for new parents, in most cases the young adult is simply looking for answers to basic questions like “who do I look like?” and “why was I placed for adoption?”

Adoptive parents are not the only ones who may enter a reunion with some degree of trepidation. It is not unusual for adoptees to express concern that their birth family will

not want to ever establish contact. Some birth parents worry that the adoptee will not understand the birth parent’s reason for making an adoption plan and may resent the birth parent’s decision.

Once contact is established, it can be tempting to quickly introduce everyone and their brother into the situation! However, too many people added too quickly can be overwhelming to anyone. In general, it is recommended to meet family members gradually and allow relationships to grow in a more natural manner.

Most adoptees emerge from establishing contact with their birth family with a stronger sense of their identity and a deeper bond with their adoptive family. Most birth parents emerge with a sense of a confirmation of their decision and adoptive parents with an appreciation for their child’s birth family and their child’s full history. While not without their emotional pitfalls, reunions can be a rewarding and life-altering event for all parties in the adoption triad

Shirley Moore  
Domestic Adoption Supervisor

# SAVE THE DATE

*Love Basket 35th Anniversary Reunion & Celebration*  
*October 24th, 2015*

*Join the Love Basket Team and Board of Directors  
in honoring Frank Block as he retires.*

*Visit with adoptive families and make new connections.*

*Look forward with us to Love Basket's future!*



All Friends of Love Basket are  
Welcome at the

**City Museum**

**701 North 15th St.**

**St. Louis, MO 63103**

**10am-2pm**

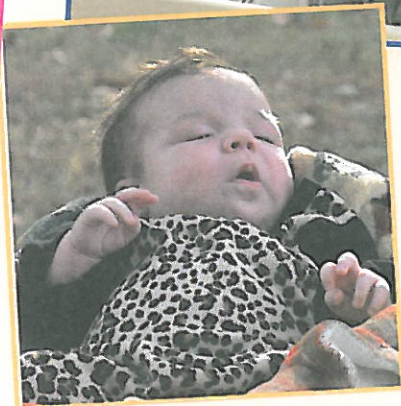
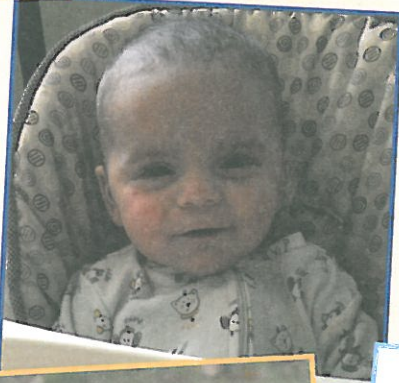
*\*formal invitation to follow*

To register, go to **[www.lovebasket.org/events](http://www.lovebasket.org/events)**

Want to show your support of Love Basket with a donation? Go to [www.lovebasket.org/donate/](http://www.lovebasket.org/donate/)

Your donations make it possible for Love Basket to provide the resources necessary for expecting mothers to CHOOSE LIFE!





# Call For Memories

*Love Basket would love to share your memories as part of our upcoming reunion and celebration on October 24, 2015.*

We are creating a tribute video and memory book to share at our special event. We are looking for photos, videos, and written comments about how Love Basket and Frank Block have impacted your life and family. We'd love it if you shared your memories with us.

Please send photos and memories in the form that's most convenient to you:

**Email:** [sharonbass@lovebasket.org](mailto:sharonbass@lovebasket.org);

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/lovebasketadoptions](http://www.facebook.com/lovebasketadoptions)

**Postal:** Love Basket, Inc.

Attn.: Sharon Bass, 10306 Business 21,  
Hillsboro, MO 63050

Please submit your memories to us by September 20, 2015.

\*mailed photos will not be returned



NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
COLUMBIA, MO  
PERMIT NO. 319

**Love Basket, Inc.**  
10306 Business 21  
Hillsboro, Missouri 63050

**LOVE BASKET IS PROUD TO PARTNER WITH OR BE ACCREDITED BY:**



**CONTACT  
INFORMATION**  
TWO LOCATIONS, ONE MISSION.

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Hillsboro, MO 63050  
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Fax: 636.789.4978  
[info@lovebasket.org](mailto:info@lovebasket.org)

**Kentucky Office**  
PO Box 813  
Goshen, KY 40026  
Phone: 502.423.5780  
[margaret.gibson@lovebasket.org](mailto:margaret.gibson@lovebasket.org)

**ELECTRONIC FAMILY JOURNAL**



We're moving to an electronic format for newsletters, to save both money and trees. In the future, the Family Journal will be delivered to you via email! Please take a moment to email us at: [updateme@lovebasket.org](mailto:updateme@lovebasket.org), so that you're kept abreast of the latest and greatest news at Love Basket. Be sure to include your first and last name(s) and your email address(es) in the body of the email. As always, give us a call if you have any questions.  
Thanks!